

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS State Board of Retirement

ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, BOSTON, MA 02108-1607

N E W S L E T T E R



Timothy P. Cahill

Welcome to the Fall 2009 edition of the Active Member Newsletter

Many members are finding that the right time for their retirement is not when they had originally planned. The State Board of Retirement has been busy these past few months processing an increased number of retirement applications due to retirement incentives and is working hard to meet the increased demand.

Even if you are not planning on retiring in the near future, now is the time to learn as much as you can about your retirement benefits and map out a plan for your financial future. The upcoming Money Conference highlighted on page three is an opportunity to learn more about managing your finances. Registration is now open for this free event. Page four gives an overview of pension benefits available to veterans as well as information on rules related to transferring your sick and vacation pay to deferred compensation at retirement.

Be sure to visit our website for even more information on your retirement benefits. Should you have any questions, suggestions or contributions for future newsletters, please do not hesitate to contact us. On behalf of the State Board of Retirement, thank you for your service to the Commonwealth.

Timothy P. Cahill
Treasurer and Receiver General
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



STATE BOARD OF RETIREMENT

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Chairman

Treasurer Timothy P. Cahill

Elected Members

Ralph White

Theresa McGoldrick, Esq.

Appointed Member

Peter Koutoujian, Sr.

Chosen Member

Chris S. Condon

Executive Director

Nicola Favorito, Esq.

MAIN OFFICE

Address:

One Ashburton Place, Room 1219
Boston, MA 02108-1607

Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. M–F

Phone: (617) 367-7770

Fax: (617) 723-1438

REGIONAL OFFICE

Address:

436 Dwight Street, Room 109A
Springfield, MA 01103

Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. M–F

Phone: (413) 730-6135

Fax: (413) 730-6139

PHONE TOLL-FREE

1-800-392-6014 (Mass. only)

Automated Phone Options

Retirement Counselor 1
Disability 2
Survivor Benefits 5
Buyback 6
Withdrawal/Refund 7
Direct Deposit 8

EMAIL

SRB@tre.state.ma.us

WEB SITE

www.mass.gov/retirement

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Over \$1.6 Million Returned to Lost Members & Beneficiaries

Since 2006 we have returned over \$1.6 million to members and their beneficiaries that had previously gone unclaimed. Our website currently lists members whose beneficiaries we have been unable to locate. The Refund Department also maintains a list of members who left state service and never requested a refund of their contributions. If you think someone you know may have some funds left in the system, please let them know to contact our Survivor Benefits or Refund departments.

The circumstances behind why members leave their money behind varies from person to person - from members who left state service and didn't realize they could take their retirement contributions with them to family members who had no idea their loved one had listed them as beneficiaries.

Current active employees or retirees who retire under Option A or B should make sure their beneficiary information is up to date. You can update your beneficiary information at any time by filling out the Beneficiary Form available on our website. Also, visit our website to learn more about your annuity savings account. ■



Reminders

Please notify your Human Resources coordinator of any change of address.

Important Dates to Remember:

October

Monday, October 12 | Columbus Day, offices closed
Thursday, October 29 | Board Meeting
October 18-24 is National Save For Retirement Week!

November

Wednesday, November 11 | Veterans Day, offices closed
Thursday, November 19 | Board Meeting*
Thursday, November 26 | Thanksgiving, offices closed

December

Friday, December 25 | Christmas, offices closed
Thursday, December 31 | Board Meeting*



Look for this icon on our website to calculate an estimate of your pension benefits

* Board meeting dates are subject to change. Final notice of meeting dates are available by calling our office.

Welcome!

Board Welcomes New Members

Recent legislation has transferred the employees of the Turnpike Authority and the several County Sheriffs into the State Employees' Retirement System (SERS).

Turnpike Authority employees and their retirees will become members of the SERS on November 1, 2009 when the Turnpike Authority becomes part of the Department of Transportation.

Roughly 3000 active employees of the various County Sheriff systems will become members of the SERS beginning January 1, 2010. Existing County Sheriff retirees will continue to be members of their respective county retirement system. All new retirees as of January 1, 2010 will be retired under the SERS. ■

PRIM Board Update: August 2009

The Pension Reserves Investment Trust (PRIT) Fund is a pooled investment fund established to invest the assets of the Massachusetts State Teachers' and Employees' Retirement Systems, and the assets of county, authority, district, and municipal retirement systems that choose to invest in the Fund. The PRIT Fund was created by the Legislature in December 1983. The nine-member PRIM Board is responsible for the management of the PRIT Fund. The Treasurer and Receiver General of the Commonwealth is a member ex officio and serves as the chair. The State Employees' Retirement System also has two representatives on the Board: the members of that Retirement System elect one and one is an Elected Member of the State Retirement Board.

***Pension Reserves Investment Trust (PRIT) FUND ASSETS:**
\$40,525,134,000

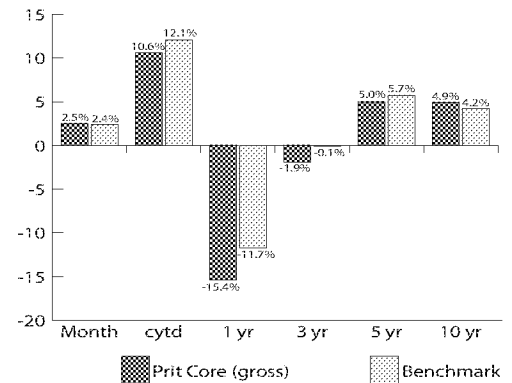
***State Employees' Retirement System (SERS) ASSETS:**
\$16,440,365,827

To get more detailed information on the Pension Reserves Investment Management (PRIM) Board you can always go to the PRIM website to view their complete quarterly updates at www.mapension.com.

Due to limited space, we can only provide a condensed version of their fund updates. For more information about the PRIM Board, please visit their website at www.mapension.com

*As of 8/31/2009

PRIT Core Fund as of 8/31/09



Market Recap – August 31, 2009

Domestic Equity Markets:

Index	Month	CYTD
S&P 500	3.61%	14.97%
DOW	3.97%	10.79%
NASDAQ % Chg	1.54%	27.40%
Russell 2000	2.87%	15.75%
Russell 3000	3.57%	16.32%

Recession Proof Your Wallet at the Money Conference

If recent economic uncertainty has left you scratching your head over basic and complex financial issues, then the Treasury's financial education division has an opportunity for you to manage your personal financial concerns. *The Money Conference* offers a chance for you to gain basic money management skills at workshops and one-on-one meetings with a financial advisor.

The Money Conference is a FREE conference presented by Treasurer Tim Cahill in conjunction with the YWCA.

This event aims to improve individuals' financial knowledge and affect positive changes in behavior. Financial choices are becoming more complex and

without a formal system to develop financial education for the general public, ongoing vigilance is necessary to ensure that this financial education initiative and similar private and public financial educators continue to meet their important objectives.

The Money Conference delivers an array of workshops that offer attendees a path to begin living a financially responsible lifestyle and acquaint attendees with resourceful organizations and literature that offer ongoing assistance in reaching financial goals. The Conference will focus on money management, retirement and investment strategies for all ages, racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds, and levels of financial knowledge. ■

THE MONEY CONFERENCE

A PROJECT OF STATE TREASURER TIMOTHY P. CAHILL

www.themoneyconference.com

REBOUNDING FROM A RECESSION

Saturday, November 14th 2009

The Sheraton Boston Hotel

39 Dalton Street, Boston, MA

8:00 am - 3:30 pm

Registration now open

www.themoneyconference.com

or 617-367-6900 to register

Understanding Your Benefits: *Veterans' Retirement Benefits*



Are you a Veteran? You may be able to increase your retirement benefits.

Certain honorably discharged veterans,

under Massachusetts retirement law, are eligible to purchase up to four years of creditable service. To be a veteran under Massachusetts law you have to have either 180 days of regular active duty service and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions or 90 days of active duty service, one day of which is during "wartime" per the chart on the Veterans' Buyback form on our website, and a last discharge or release under honorable conditions.

Veterans who also have Active Reserve and Massachusetts National Guard Service may receive creditable service on a ratio of five years of such service equal to one year of creditable service.

Contact our buyback department at 617-367-7770, extension 6 for more information on processing a veteran's creditable service buyback.

Other benefits to veterans include enhanced pension benefits of up to \$300 based on the length of military service and a veteran's ordinary disability benefit.

Be sure to indicate your military service on your retirement application when you apply for retirement and provide us with a copy of your DD-214 form. Visit our website at mass.gov/retirement for more information on benefits available to veterans. ■

Rules for Deferring Funds at Retirement

At retirement, you are able to defer your sick and vacation pay into your MA Deferred Compensation SMART Plan account. You can transfer 20% of your sick time and 100% of your vacation and/or back pay. You are only able to defer these payments at retirement.

Deferral of both sick and vacation pay and/or back pay are permitted providing the following conditions are met:

1. Sick and vacation pay may be deferred for any calendar month only if the amount would have been available for use or would have been paid to the employee if employment had not terminated.

2. Is paid **within two and a half (2½) months** following retirement (or other severance from employment).
3. An agreement providing for the deferral is entered into before the beginning of the month in which the amounts would otherwise be paid or made available.

Please note that you cannot exceed the annual contribution limits set by the IRS.

The **Voluntary Layoff Incentives** that many agencies are offering their employees cannot be contributed to your deferred compensation account.

If you have any further questions regard-

ing deferrals or enrolling in the MA Deferred Compensation SMART Plan, please **call the SMART Plan Service Center** at (877) 457 1900, option 2 or visit their website at www.mass.gov/smartplan. ■

